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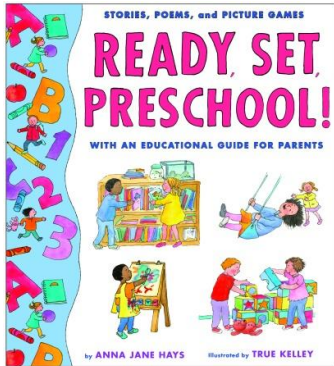
Falling for Great Kids' Books:

Selections to help your child start the school year right

by Carolyn Hart

For many adults, books are a great source of information as well as entertainment. Whether searching for a delicious recipe, researching an upcoming family vacation or deciding if a visit to the doctor is necessary, books can be inspiring, entertaining, informative and reassuring.

Just as adults seek information from books, children gain understanding and confidence as they explore new and unfamiliar situations through books. Whether heading off to preschool or elementary school, there are many delightful picture books available to help you and your child make the transition with relative ease.



Ready, Set, Preschool!

Written by Anna Jane Hays, illustrated by True Kelley

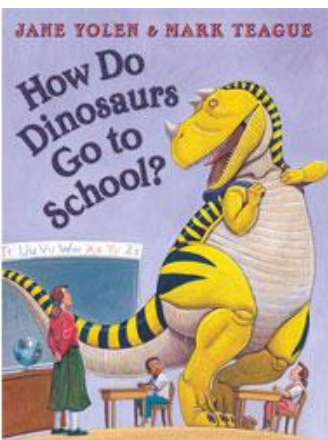
Ready, Set, Preschool! features stories, poetry and detailed illustrations that will enable youngsters to explore a typical preschool classroom, experience a field trip, observe playground activities and more. As well, the illustrations and text offer opportunities to practice counting, identifying colours, shapes, recognize rhyming words, the alphabet and letter sounds.

Extensive notes for parents provide helpful suggestions of ways to extend learning and prepare young children for their first school experience.

Off to First Grade

Written by Louise Borden, illustrated by Joan Rankin

I can still recall vividly a recommendation that was made when I attended my eldest son's kindergarten orientation: make sure your child is not expecting to ride the school bus to school (unless he actually *is* going to climb aboard)! It was great advice. In those days he was captivated by large vehicles. Discovering at the last minute that he would not be riding the bus to school could have been terribly disappointing. The transition from kindergarten to grade one is explored thoroughly and with thoughtfulness in Off to First Grade. The author tells the story from a variety of perspectives. We discover some children will ride the bus and others will walk. Some are eager to begin grade one and a few think they would rather stay in kindergarten. Mrs. Miller is hoping to remember everyone's name, the school bus driver is excited and the principal wonders which book to read aloud to the new grade one students.



How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?

Written by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague

The latest *How Do Dinosaurs* title by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague is How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? Here the reader visits a conventional elementary school. The school, its staff and students appear quite unremarkable except for eight or ten extraordinary pupils. Enormous creatures from the Jurassic period demonstrate proper behavior enroute to school, on the stairs, in the classroom, during show-and-tell and at the playground. Lots of funosaurus for dino fans.

Carolyn Hart is a B.C. certified teacher with a special interest in early literacy and children's books. She offers programs and workshops for professional and parent groups throughout the Lower Mainland. You can reach her via email: carolyn@storytimestandouts.com. Her website is storytimestandouts.com.